

## Manual Floor Sweeper

### Background to the Invention

#### 5 1. Field of the Invention

The invention relates to manual floor sweepers

#### 2. Background Information

Manual Floor Sweepers are well-known. They comprise a  
10 housing with a brush roller mounted therein. Four wheels  
are provided so that the housing can be pushed forwards and  
backwards across a floor. The brush roller has a drive  
wheel that engages at least one of the wheels. When the  
sweeper moves forwards across a floor surface the brush  
15 roller rotates in a first sweeping direction, and when  
sweeper moves backwards across the floor surface the brush  
roller rotates in a second sweeping direction. Either side  
of the brush roller are dust collection compartments for  
collecting dust when the brush roller moves in the first  
20 and second sweeping directions.

### Summary of the Invention

It is an object of the present invention to provide a  
manual sweeper in which the brush roller rotates in a  
25 single sweeping direction regardless of the direction of

movement of the sweeper, and which requires only one dust collection compartment.

According to the invention there is provided a manual floor  
5 sweeper including:

a housing;

a brush roller mounted within the housing and rotatable in a sweeping direction;

a first drive member fixed to the brush roller;

10 a second drive member mounted rotatably with the housing and engagable with the first drive member;

a drive carriage movable between a first position for engaging the first drive member and a second position for engaging the second drive member so as to move the brush  
15 roller in the sweeping direction when the sweeper is moved in the first or second directions.

Preferably, the drive carriage comprises a drive ring positioned about the first and second drive members and  
20 mounted rotatably with the housing for rotation in a first direction when the sweeper is moved in a first direction and rotation in a second direction when the sweeper is moved in a second direction.

Preferably, the drive ring includes a drive wheel for supporting the housing on a floor surface and for rotating the drive ring in the first and second directions.

- 5 Preferably, the drive carriage comprises a bogie having two axles and a wheel mounted at ends of each axle.

Further aspects of the invention will become apparent from the following description, which is given by way of example  
10 only.

#### Brief Description of the Drawings

An embodiment of the invention will now be described by way  
15 of example only and with reference to the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is an exploded view of a floor sweeper according to the invention,

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Figure 2 is a section view through the floor sweeper of figure 1,

Figure 3 illustrates operation of the sweeper moving in a  
25 first direction,

Figure 4 illustrates operation of the sweeper moving in a second direction,

5 Figure 5 illustrates alternative operation of the sweeper moving in a first direction,

Figure 6 illustrates alternative operation of the sweeper moving in a second direction,

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Figure 7 is an exploded view of an alternative embodiment of a floor sweeper according to the invention,

Figure 8 is a sectional view through the floor sweeper of  
15 figure 7.

#### Description of the Preferred Embodiment

Referring to figures 1 and 2, a manual sweeper comprises a  
20 housing 1 having an elongate opening 2 in its base. Disposed proximate the opening 2 is a brush roller 3 with a plurality of brush members 4 for sweeping a floor as the housing 1 is moved across the floor. Projecting from either end of brush roller 3 are stub shafts 5 which pass through

bushes 6 fixed in the housing 1 for rotatably mounting the brush roller 3.

Either side of opening 2 the housing is provided with  
5 cavities 7 for enclosing a drive mechanism for brush roller  
3. Cavities 7 are open at the base of housing 1 to so that  
the drive mechanism has a driving contact with the floor  
surface. Stub shafts 5 extend into cavity 7 and have  
mounted thereon a brush roller drive wheel 8. Also mounted  
10 within cavity 7 is a transmission friction wheel 9. In the  
preferred embodiment transmission friction wheel 9 is  
rotatably and slidably mounted so that it can move between  
a position engaged with brush friction wheel 8 and a  
position disengaged from brush friction wheel 8. However,  
15 in alternative embodiments the transmission friction wheel  
8 is rotatably mounted in permanent engagement with brush  
friction wheel 8.

A cup shaped driving friction wheel 10 is rotatably mounted  
20 in each cavity 7. The skirt 11 of driving friction wheel 10  
is positioned about the brush friction wheel 8 and  
transmission friction wheel 9. The driving friction wheel  
10 extends through the base opening of cavity 7 so that a  
driving surface 22 engages the floor surface to support the  
25 sweeper, and to rotate the driving friction wheel 10 in a

first direction of rotation A when the sweeper is moved in a first direction of movement B across the floor surface, and to rotate the driving friction wheel 10 in a second direction of rotation C when the sweeper is moved in a second direction of movement D across the floor surface. 5 The driving friction wheel 10 is also slidably mounted within cavity 7 so that when the sweeper is moved in the forward direction B friction wheel 10 moves to a first position in which the inner surface of skirt 11 engages the 10 outer periphery of brush friction wheel 8. When the sweeper is moved in the second direction D the driving friction wheel 10 is moved to a second position in which the inner surface of skirt 11 engages the transmission friction wheel 9.

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Located adjacent elongate opening 2 in base portion of housing 1 is a dust collection compartment 12.

Referring to figure 3, when the sweeper is moved across the 20 floor in the first direction of movement B the driving friction wheel 10 moves to the first position in which the inner wall of skirt 11 engages brush friction wheel 8. The driving friction wheel 10 rotates in the first direction A so as to cause brush roller 3 to move in a sweeping

direction and brush members 4 sweep dirt and rubbish into dust collection compartment 12.

Referring to figure 4, when the sweeper is moved in the second direction D across the floor surface the driving friction wheel 10 moves to the second position in which inner wall of skirt 11 engages the transmission friction wheel 9. Transmission friction wheel 9 in turn engages with brush friction wheel 8 turning the brush roller 3 in the sweeping direction. Brush members 4 sweep dirt and rubbish into dust collection compartment 12.

The brush roller 3 is caused to rotate in the same sweeping direction regardless of the direction B, D of travel of the sweeper across the floor surface. Only one dust collection compartment is required.

The embodiment provides a manual sweeper with a single pair of driving wheels 10, a single brush roller 3 and one duct collection compartment 12. The roller brush 3 rotates in the same direction regardless of the direction of movement B, D of the sweeper. Opening 2 in the housing and the brush roller 3 are located proximate the front of the housing 1, which improves the effectiveness of the sweeper.

It might be desirable to have a manual sweeper with a conventional four wheel arrangement. Referring to figures 5 and 6, an alternative embodiment has a bogie comprising a first axle 13 carrying a first pair of wheels 14 and a  
5 second axle 15 carrying a second pair of wheels 16. The bogie is slidably mounted with housing 1. When the sweeper is moved in the first direction B the bogie moves to a first position wherein first wheels 14 engage brush friction wheel 8 rotating brush roller 3 in the sweeping  
10 direction. When the sweeper is move in the reverse direction D across the floor surface the bogie moves to a second position wherein second wheels 16 engage the transmission friction wheel 9, which in turn engages brush friction wheel 8 turning brush roller 3 in the sweeping  
15 direction.

Referring to figures 7 and 8, in another alternative embodiment the driving friction wheel is an annulus having guide rings 18 on its edges. The housing 1 base plate  
20 includes side plates 19, 20 either side of cavities 7. Driving friction wheel 17 is positioned about brush friction wheel 8 and transmission friction wheel 9 within cavity 17 and is floating therein. Guide ring 18 bears against inside surfaces of side plates 19, 20. Side plates  
25 19, 20 include projecting rim 21 which bears against the



top of guide ring 18 to vertically locate driving friction wheel 17 against the floor surface when the sweeper is use.

Where in the foregoing description reference has been made  
5 to integers or elements have known equivalents then such are included as if individually set forth herein.

Embodiments of the invention having been described, however  
it is understood that variations, improvements or  
10 modifications can take place without departure from the spirit of the invention or scope of the appended claims.